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COUNTRY Syria

CONFIDENTIAL

DATE DISTR. 9MAY 1949

SUBJECT

Temporary Suspension of Activity by Syrian Communist Party

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- Syrian Communists on all Party levels have suspended meetings and activities indefinitely, with the exception of distribution of Communist tracts, until they find out who will be arrested by the Za'in Government.
- Instructions were sent by courier from Beirut to all Communist cells. informing then that further instructions would be forthcoming in several weeks, after the leaders had determined the real nature of the Zalim Government's anti-Communist drive. If this drive really is to be a strong one, the Soviets will give the Communists such help as they need to start an effective underground, source states. The Communists are not particularly discouraged over Za'in's coup d'état, because they feel that the new Government can easily be discredited or overthrown. Should the latter happen, the Communists feel that there is no strong man to take Zalim's place, and the resulting chaos would enable them to seize power, source asserts.
  - Washington Commento stated that the Communist Party was giving the job of tract distribution to women members, in case of mass arrests of the men.

This document is hereby regraded to CONFIDENTIAL in accordance with the letter of 16 October 1978 from the Director of Central Intelligence to the Archivist of the United States.

Next Review Date: 2008

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